GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2586
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
RADIO CHANNELS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Radio Channels has increased considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the number of Radio listeners has also increased proportionately;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Radio Channels are being used to popularize local governance as recommended by the Administrative Reforms Commission; and

(f) if so, the details of Broadcasts and duration devoted for this purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. On 31st March, 2004, there were 214 All India Radio (AIR) Stations and 336 transmitters. As on date, there are 231 AIR Stations and 372 transmitters. The details of AIR Stations are annexed at Annexure-I.

Also, Government had introduced a Policy of expansion of FM Radio through Private Agencies in 1999. 21 Channels were operationalised under the Scheme. Subsequently, a new Policy of expansion of FM Radio through Private Agencies was notified in 2005 and permission for operationalization of 245 Channels was granted under this Scheme. As on date, 205 FM Channels are operational. Details of Private FM Channels are annexed at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): According to the All India Radio Survey conducted during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07, AIR listenership was 310 million, 340 million and 357 million respectively. This clearly indicates increasing trend of listenership/listeners of AIR. No specific study has been undertaken by the Government with regard to listenership of FM Radio Channels.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. AIR Channels are being used to publicize the success stories regarding Local Governance recommended by Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie. About 30 AIR Stations are broadcasting programmes based on the success stories as recommended and each Station is devoting 20 to 35 minutes for each programme. On an average, 10 to 20 programmes are being broadcast every month covering this issue.

In December, 2006, Government has formulated a new Policy on Community Radio with a view to allow greater participation by the Civil Society on the issues relating to development and social change. The Community Radios can work as powerful means for rural employment and may be effectively used for dissemination of information regarding various Scheme and Policy of the Government.